

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claim 76 and amend Claims 66, 68 and 70 as shown below.

The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a plurality of services over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

~~transmitting, by a user terminal, a request for printing an image stored on the network to a service center;~~

storing, by the ~~a~~ service center, items and their prices in a first table;

storing, by the service center, ~~at least one group, each a group having a plurality of service providers associated with at least one common item of the first table,~~ in a second table;

updating, by the service center, the prices of the items in the first table;

requesting, by a user terminal, to the service center to provide an item from one of the plurality of the service providers;

referring, by the service center, to the second table to determine service providers in a group associated with the requested item;

referring to the updated first table on the basis of a result of referring to the second table;

calculating, ~~by the service center,~~ a charge related to the request on the basis of a result of referring to the updated first table and the second table;

sending a notification of the calculated charge from the service center to the user terminal;

forwarding the request from the user terminal to one of the plurality of service providers ~~within the at least one group~~ via the network automatically upon receipt ~~by the service center of an~~ a confirmation instruction from the user terminal of whether to provide the item print, the instruction being responsive to the notification sent to the user terminal of the charge; and

performing, by the ~~one of the plurality of~~ service provider[[s]], ~~printing of the image producing the item~~ according to the forwarded request received from the service center.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A system of for providing a plurality of services over a network, said system comprising:

a service center; and

a user terminal for transmitting a request to the service center to provide an item from one of a plurality of service providers, ~~for printing an image stored on the network to said service center,~~

wherein said service center stores items and their prices in a first table;

wherein said service center stores ~~at least one group~~, each a group having a plurality of service providers associated with at least one common item ~~of the first table~~, in a second table;

wherein said service center updates the prices of the items in the first table;

wherein said service center refers to the second table to determine service providers in a group associated with the requested item;

wherein said service center refers to the first table on the basis of a result of referring to the second table;

wherein ~~said service center calculates a charge~~ is calculated related to the request on the basis of a result of referring to the ~~updated first table and the second table;~~

wherein said service center sends a notification of the calculated charge to the user terminal;

wherein said service center forwards the request to one of said plurality of service providers within the ~~at least one group~~ via the network automatically upon receipt by said service center of an a confirmation instruction from said user terminal of whether to provide the item print, the instruction being responsive to the notification sent to the user terminal of the charge; and

wherein the one of said plurality of service provider[[s]] performs printing of the image produces the item according to the forwarded request received from said service center.

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) A service center apparatus for managing a plurality of services provided over a network, said apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a request ~~for printing an image stored on the network, from a user terminal via the network, for one of a plurality of service providers to provide an item;~~

first storage means for storing items and their prices in a first table;

second storage means for storing ~~one or more groups, each a group having a plurality of service providers associated with at least one common item of the first storage~~ means in a second table;

updating means for updating the prices of the items in the first storage means table;

first referring means for referring to the second table to determine service providers in a group associated with the requested item;

second referring means for referring to the first table on the basis of a result of referring to the second table;

calculation means for calculating a charge related to the request on the basis of a result of referring to the updated first table storage means and the second storage means;

notification means for sending a notification of the calculated charge to the user terminal; and

transmission means for transmitting the request to one of the plurality of service providers ~~within the at least one group~~ via the network automatically upon receipt of a confirmation instruction from the user terminal of whether to provide the item print; the instruction being responsive to the notification sent to the user terminal of the charge.

71. to 75. (Cancelled)

76. (New) A method according to Claim 66, wherein the item requested by the user terminal is obtained, by the service provider, by printing an image stored in the service center on a storage medium.